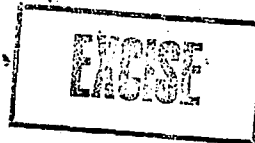


Georgetown post #2



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Georgetown, Guyana

January 25, 1978

Honorable Phillip Burton
P. O. Box 36023
Federal Building
450 Golden Gate
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Congressman Burton:

I refer to your memorandum of December 7, 1977, to the Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations pertaining to the inquiry by your constituent, [REDACTED] about the welfare of his father, Mr. Emmitt Griffith. The Assistant Secretary forwarded your request to the Embassy for reply.

The Embassy had received a similar inquiry from [REDACTED] which Consul Richard Mc Coy replied on December 12, a copy of which is enclosed for your information. Since that date Mr. Mc Coy visited the People's Temple Agricultural Community on January 11, 1978 and met with Mr. Griffith's mother Mary and brother Emmitt Griffith, Jr.

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Mrs. Griffith is well and recovering from the shock of her husband's death on November 5, 1977. Your constituent was notified of his father's death by the Embassy on December 2, 1977. We did not notify [REDACTED] earlier since the Embassy assumed that Mrs. Griffith would notify other members of her family of her husband's demise.

On a happier note Mr. Mc Coy has just registered the birth of [REDACTED] who was born on October

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <u>Art</u>	DATE <u>3/2/87</u>
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED	

Honorable Phillip Burton -2-

January 25, 1978

29 1977 to Emmitt Griffith, Jr., and his wife. During his conversation with Mary Griffith and Emmitt Griffith, Jr., the Consul noted that they appeared content with their present life.

The Consul also met privately with about 23 other members of the community to determine whether individuals were held against their will at the farm. All persons interviewed denied that they were being held in bondage and expressed their desire to remain at the community until they wished to return to the United States.

I trust the above information clarifies this matter for you. If you have any further questions or wish any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

John R. Burke
Ambassador

Enclosure:
As stated above

JRB:ddh
DRAFTED:CONS:RAMcCoy
CLEARED:DCM :JDBlacken